

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 05156 111913Z

51

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AEC-11 AECE-00 ACDA-19 MC-02

IO-14 HEW-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 052642

O P 111748Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4302

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

COMFAIRMED PRIORITY

COMSUBFLT EIGHT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IT

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES AT LA MADDALENA

REF: ROME 4987 (NOTAL)

1. ALARMIST ARTICLE BY GIANFRANCO AMENDOLA REPEATING HIS CALL FOR A BAN ON VISITS OF NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES TO LA MADDALENA APPEARS IN TODAY'S IL MESSAGGERO. ARTICLE FOLLOWS OUTLINE REPORTED REFTEL. IT PUBLISHES RESULTS OF THREE RADIOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF LA MADDALENA BY ITALIAN CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (CNEN) SHOWING DEFINITE INCREASES IN LEVELS OF COBALT 60 AND MAGNESIUM 54 IN HARDOR SEDIMENT AND TRACES OF THESE ELEMENTS IN CERTAIN ORGANISMS, SUCH AS ALGAE AND MOLLUSKS. UNIT OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 05156 111913Z

MEASUREMENT IS NOT STATED IN ARTICLE, BUT WE ARE INFORMED

IT IS PICOCURIE/GRAM.

2. BURIED IN THE ARTICLE ARE STATEMENTS THAT THE SITUATION AT LA MADDALENA HAS NOT YET REACHED THE DANGER POINT AND THAT PRESENT RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS THERE ARE NOT YET A CAUSE FOR PREOCCUPATION. HOWEVER, AMENDOLA RETURNS TO THEME OF HIS PREVIOUS REPORT THAT LONG TERM EFFECTS OF EVEN MINISCULE AMOUNTS OF RADIATION ARE NOT YET CLEARLY KNOWN. FURTHERMORE, BASIC THRUST OF ARTICLE, WHICH TAKES ITALIAN AGENCIES SEVERELY TO TASK FOR LACK OF CO-ORDINATION AND HAPHAZARD SURVEYING METHODS, AND SHOWS INCREASE IN UNIT READINGS BUT DOES NOT STRESS THEIR INNOCUOUSNESS, IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO CREATE PUBLIC PRESSURES FOR SUSPENSION OF NPW VISITS UNTIL GOI COMPLETELY REEVALUATES ITS MONITORING APPARATUS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION AT LA MADDALENA, INCLUDING THE RECEIPT OF MORE INFORMATION FROM THE US ON REACTOR OPERATIONS. AS FORECAST REFTEL, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT EXPLANATIONS PROVIDED AMENDOLA BY EMBOFFS HAD ANY EFFECT ON TEXT.

3. TABLE OF RADIATION LEVEL READINGS PUBLISHED ALONG WITH ARTICLE FOLLOWS. CNEN SAMPLINGS OF BOTTOM SEDIMENT WERE TAKEN NOVEMBER 23, 1972, OCTOBER 3, 1973, AND FEBRUARY 12, 1974 AT VARIOUS POINTS WITHIN SANTO STEFANO BAY.

		11/23/72	10/3/73	2/12/74
NATO PIER	CO 60	-	0.003	0.01
	MA 54	-	-	0.10
WESTERN	CO 60	-	-	0.05
ENTRANCE TO	MA 54	-	-	0.04
BAY				
MIDDLE OF	CO 60	0.031	0.02	0.01
BAY	MA 54	-	-	-
STAGNALI BAY	CO 60	-	-	0.03
LA CAPRERA	MA 54	-	0.02	-

4. AMENDOLA WRITES THAT THE GOI HAS DISREGARDED "ALL DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SAFETY NORMS" FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR PLANTS. HE OUTLINES SEVERAL SAFETY CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY FOR THE UTILIZATION OF PORTS BY NUCLEAR POWERED MERCHANT SHIPS WHICH HE STATES HAVE NOT BEEN MET AT LA MADDALENA. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 05156 111913Z

AMONG THESE HE LISTS A SURVEY OF METEOROLOGICAL AND OTHER NATURAL FACTORS PERTAINING TO THE POSSIBLE DISPERSION OF RADIATION; THE FURNISHING OF A "SAFETY ANALYSIS" BY THE SHIP OF THE VISITING COUNTRY TO THE HOST COUNTRY TO INCLUDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE NUCLEAR PLANT; A SURVEY OF THE NUTRITION HABITS OF THE NEARBY POPULATION; PERIODIC INSPECTIONS BY AUTHORIZED HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL OF THE SAFETY SYSTEMS AND THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE SHIP'S REACTOR; AND A CLEAR EMERGENCY PLAN TO BE PUT INTO

EFFECT IN CASE OF A NUCLEAR INCIDENT.

5. AMENDOLA CONCLUDES THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ABANDONED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEIR CITIZENS FROM POTENTIAL DANGER.

6. WE HOPE SOON TO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CNEN REPORT REFERRED TO BY AMENDOLA. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE BEEN FURNISHED A COPY OF A NOV. 1972 ANALYSIS BY CAMEN (WE WILL POUCH), THE MILITARY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS. CAMEN CONCLUDES THAT MEASURED RADIOACTIVITY AT LA MADDALENA WAS WELL WITHIN BACKGROUND LEVELS. FROM A COMPARISON OF THE CAMEN REPORT WITH THAT PUBLISHED IN TODAY'S IL MESSAGGERO, IT IS CLEAR THAT BOTH ANALYSES WERE BASED ON SAMPLINGS TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME AND IN THE SAME LOCATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, THE COBALT 60 READINGS IN THE CAMEN REPORT, WHICH IS STILL CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL, ARE AT VARIANCE WITH THOSE REPORTED IN THE AMENDOLA ARTICLE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE COBALT 60 LEVEL IN SEDIMENT OBTAINED UNDERNEATH THE NATO PIER IS GIVEN AS 0.2 PC/G, AS COMPARED WITH THE CNEN FINDING THAT THERE WAS NO TRACE OF COBALT 60 AT THE SAME LOCATION IN 1972. EVEN THE FIGURE FOR 1974 IN THE CNEN SURVEY IS LOWER BY A FACTOR OF 20 -- ASSUMING THAT THE MEASUREMENTS ARE IN PC/G.

7. TO NEW YORK TIMES QUERY, WE DREW ON PRESS GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN STATE 062112. WE WILL CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT ALL THE READINGS ARE VERY SMALL COMPARED TO NORMAL BACKGROUND LEVELS AND TOLERABLE LIMITS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT JOURNALISTS TO CONTRAST OUR GUIDANCE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO DETECTABLE INCREASE IN COBALT 60 LEVELS DUE TO NPW OPERATIONS WITH CNEN FINDINGS. FOR ITS PART, CNEN HAS INDICATED TO US THAT AMENDOLA HAS TAKEN THEIR FINDINGS OUT OF CONTEXT. REPORT ON WHICH AMENDOLA BASED HIS ARTICLE WAS PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION IN FORTHCOMING CNEN JOURNAL. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ROME 05156 111913Z

PRESIDENT OF CNEN HAS DIRECTED THAT FOR THE TIME BEING CNEN WILL REFUSE TO ANSWER PRESS QUERIES.

8. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH MFA AND MOD ON THIS SUBJECT. THE FORMER HAS INDICATED A DESIRE TO AVOID A PUBLIC POSITION ON THE THEORY THE MATTER IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY OF POSSIBLY THE HEALTH MINISTRY. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO STIMULATE GOI OFFICIALS TO GREATER ACTION NOW THAT THE CNEN REPORT HAS BEEN LEAKED IN PART. UNFORTUNATELY CERTAIN KEY OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY LEFT ROME FOR THEIR EASTER HOLIDAYS. VOLPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DATA, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, SUBMARINES, NUCLEAR HAZARDS, PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME05156
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740084-0734
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740448/aaaabrhr.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 4987 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES AT LA MADDALENA
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005